

### **Amendments To The Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently Amended): An information processing system, ~~elustered by~~  
comprising:

a plurality of information processing devices each comprising program execution means;  
~~, wherein:~~

at least [[one]] a first information processing device of the plurality of the information processing devices further comprising:

metric information management means for storing metric information in an updatable manner, said metric information representing processing metric of a part or whole of other information processing devices of the plurality of information processing devices excluding the first information processing device itself;

load measurement means for measuring the actual magnitude of the load of an information processing requested;

determination means for determining at least one available device by comparing the magnitude of the load measured by the load measurement means and the metric information stored in said metric information management means, said at least one available device being capable of executing ~~such that~~ a part or whole of said information processing requested ~~can be distributed and executed;~~ and

task assignment means for assigning a task corresponding to a part or whole of the information processing requested to the at least one available device determined by said determination means.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The information processing system according to claim 1, wherein said metric information management means includes:

first list management means for acquiring first metric information representative of static processing metric of said other information processing devices to determine ~~at least one~~ one or more available ~~devices~~ device, and storing a first list in a predetermined memory area, said first list being such that the one or more available devices determined are listed; and

second management means for measuring second metric information representative of dynamic processing metric of the one or more available devices listed in said first list, creating a second list such that the second metric information measured is classified and listed per processing metric, sorting the available devices having the second metric information listed in the second list according to the task execution condition to determine at least one available device suitable for each task execution condition, and storing an index list, in which the determined at least one available device is listed, in a predetermined memory area;

wherein the second metric information of the available devices listed in the index list is read from said memory area and supplied as said metric information to said determination means.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The information processing system according to claim 2, wherein:

said first list management means uses, as said first metric information, configuration information of the program execution means provided by ~~individual~~ each of said other information processing devices and information representative of ~~[[the]]~~ a type of program that ~~can be executed~~ is executable by said program execution means, and compares said first metric information regarding ~~[[a]]~~ the other ~~plurality of~~ information processing devices, thereby determining ~~[[the]]~~ a listing order in said first list.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The information processing system according to claim 2, wherein:

said second list management means sends a processing request to each of the one or more available ~~devices~~ device listed in said first list, and receives a response result corresponding to

the processing request, thereby acquiring said second metric information of ~~that~~ each of the one or more available ~~devices~~ device.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The information processing system according to claim 4, wherein:

said second list management means weights said second metric information with one or more coefficient values ~~value that is present according~~ each corresponding to ~~[[the]]~~ a type of processing metric, thereby creating said second list per processing metric.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The information processing system according to claim 1, wherein said metric information management means includes:

first list management means for acquiring first metric information representative of static processing metric of said other information processing devices, determining ~~at least one or more~~ available ~~devices~~ device, and storing a first list, in which the determined ~~at least one or more~~ available ~~devices~~ are device is listed, in a predetermined memory area; and

second list management means for measuring second metric information representative of dynamic processing metric of the one or more available devices listed in said first list, and weighting the second metric information measured with a coefficient value ~~that is present according~~ corresponding to each of a plurality of task execution conditions, thereby storing a second list in a predetermined memory area, said second list being such that available devices having second metric information that differ ~~differs~~ depending upon task execution conditions are listed;

wherein the second metric information of the devices listed in the second list is read from said memory area and supplied as said metric information to said determination means.

Claim 7 (original): The information processing system according to claim 2, wherein:

said second list management means updates said created second list and said index list more frequently than said first list.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The information processing system according to claim 4, wherein:

said plurality of information processing devices are interconnected via a network, and said second list management means sends said processing request via said network, and receives [[a]] the response result corresponding to the processing request via said network.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The information processing system according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of information processing devices is configured so that:

said program execution means is partitioned into a plurality of clusters; and [[the]] an operating status of each cluster ~~can be notified~~ is provided to other information processing devices.

Claim 10 (original): The information processing system according to claim 9, wherein: at least one of said plurality of information processing devices notifies said other information processing devices of the number of available clusters to be used by the other information processing device as said operating status.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An information processing device for executing information processing ~~such that the magnitude of its load is unpredictable, said information processing device~~ comprising:

program execution means [[is]] partitioned into a plurality of clusters;  
metric information management means for storing metric information in an updateable manner, said metric information representing processing metric of each of the plurality of clusters of said program execution means;  
load measurement means for measuring [[the]] a magnitude of the load of [[the]] an information processing requested, wherein the magnitude of the load is unpredictable;

determination means for determining ~~at least one~~ or more available ~~device~~ clusters by comparing the magnitude of the load measured by said load measurement means and the metric information stored in said metric information management means, said ~~at least one~~ or more available clusters ~~cluster being such that~~ capable of executing a part or whole of said information processing requested ~~can be distributed and executed;~~

task assignment means for assigning a part or whole of said information processing requested to each of said ~~plurality of~~ one or more clusters determined by said determination means; and

output means for combining execution results ~~and outputting the combined results~~ from the respective clusters assigned by said task assignment means and outputting the combined results.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The information processing device according to claim 11, further comprising:

processing request execution means for executing required information processing corresponding to a processing request issued by another information processing device, and returning the execution result thereof, together with a transmission start time, to said another information processing device; and

notification means for ~~notifying~~ providing the metric information stored in said metric information management means to other information processing devices.

Claim 13 (original): The information processing device according to claim 11, wherein: each of said plurality of clusters further comprises a processor.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A distributed information processing method, wherein: each of a plurality of information processing devices interconnected via a network measures processing metric of other information processing devices through the network, and mutually stores metric information representative of the measured processing metric in a

predetermined memory area in an updateable manner, ~~[[and]]~~ wherein a part of the resources of a program execution means of one or more of the plurality of information processing devices ~~itself being~~ is available for use in another information processing device in response to a processing request, and

at each of the information processing devices, when a request occurs for information processing such that the magnitude of the load of said information processing is unpredictable, the information processing device where a request for such information processing has occurred executes the processes of:

measuring the magnitude of the load of said information processing; comparing the magnitude of the load measured and the metric information stored in said memory area to determine ~~at least~~ one or more available devices ~~device where~~ capable of executing a part or whole of said requested information processing ~~can be distributed and executed~~; assigning at least a part of said requested information processing to the one or more available devices ~~device(s)~~ determined; combining the execution results of the assigned devices; and outputting the combined execution results.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program which causes an information processing ~~device connected to a plurality of other information processing devices via a network~~ to execute the processes of:

measuring processing metric of a plurality of other information processing devices connected to the information processing device via a network through said network;

storing metric information representative of the measured processing metric of the other information processing devices in a predetermined memory area in an updateable manner;

when a certain request for information processing such that the magnitude of load of the requested information processing is unpredictable occurs, measuring the magnitude of the load of such information processing;

comparing the magnitude of the load measured and the metric information stored in said memory area to determine ~~at least~~ one or more available devices ~~device~~ such that at least a part

of said requested information processing can be distributed to the one or more available devices ~~device~~ and executed in the available device;

assigning at least a part of said requested information processing to the one or more available devices determined; and

combining the execution results of the one or more assigned available devices ~~device~~ and outputting the combined results.

Claim 16 (new): The information processing system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one available device comprises:

second metric information management means for storing metric information in an updatable manner, said metric information representing processing metric of a part or whole of the other information processing devices of the plurality of information processing devices excluding the at least one available device itself;

second load measurement means for measuring the magnitude of the load of the information processing requested corresponding to the task;

second determination means for determining at least one other available device by comparing the magnitude of the load measured by the second load measurement means and the metric information stored in said second metric information management means, said at least one other available device being capable of executing a part or whole of said information processing requested corresponding to the task; and

second task assignment means for assigning the part or whole of the information processing requested corresponding to the task to the at least one other available device determined by said determination means.